



FIRSTRAND

THE 2018 FIRSTRAND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE STUDY AWARDED

Five academically gifted South Africans with excellent leadership qualities and the potential to be future destiny changers were each awarded R825 000 to pursue postgraduate studies at an internationally recognised university of their choice in the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and FirstRand Foundation international postgraduate scholarship awards this year. For the first time, three students were also awarded R825 000 in the FirstRand FNB Fund scholarship for international postgraduate study in education and, for the second year, a candidate was awarded a full scholarship, the FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship, to complete a masters degree at the African Studies Centre at Oxford University. A further FirstRand RMB Fund *ad hoc* scholarship for education in the creative arts was awarded.

2018 is the 12th year that the prestigious FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarships have been awarded. The value of the scholarship was increased to R825 000 per year and over R7.5 million was awarded to ten students.

FirstRand scholarships were awarded to ten exceptional candidates in 2018.

Two FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarships worth R825 000 each

Andrew Molver

Andrew studied law at the University of Pretoria and holds BCom Law and LLB degrees, both with distinction. Andrew is currently a partner at Adams and Adams law firm. He acted as lead attorney for the Public Protector in several politically critical and precedent setting court cases. He has been accepted for a Master of Law at Cambridge with a focus on public international law. On completion of his masters, he hopes to contribute to SA's ongoing project to eradicate socio-economic oppression, corruption and other social ills by leveraging the law as a tool for social change.

Irfan Habib

Irfan completed his BSc in Physics and Astrophysics at UCT and then went on to complete an honours degree with distinction at Wits. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Physics at Wits with a focus on supercapacitors and their potential for being an efficient storage mechanism for renewable energy. He believes that research into renewable energy could be a significant enabler for inclusive development. He will be reading for a PhD in Condensed Matter Physics at Oxford University where he will work in the advanced functional materials group. His future goals include playing a direct role in advancing African science as a means for inclusive development.

Three FirstRand Foundation Scholarships worth R825 000 each

Bonolo Mathekga

Bonolo holds both a BEngSc in Biomedical Engineering and a BEngSc in Information Engineering from Wits.

She is currently pursuing a Masters in Bioengineering Innovation and Design at John Hopkins University. She plans to use her learned skills for the development of biomedical technologies catering to the global health sector. Her ultimate goal is to start her own biomedical engineering business.

Bubele Boo

Bubele found himself registered, through incorrect advice, for the wrong Bachelor of Music degree at UCT, to study classical piano. But, once he got into the correct stream, he was awarded BA in Music Technology at UCT with distinction.

His intention is to pursue a Masters in Music Technology at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

Tshepo Moloji

He completed his BCom, Honours and MCom degrees in Economics at the University of the Free State. Tshepo, after spending a year at National Treasury as an intern in the budget and planning division, worked for the South African Reserve Bank economic research and statistics department and is responsible for the analysis of Government's domestic and foreign debt. He will be reading towards a Masters in Public Administration (International Development) at the University of York. His mission in life is to contribute towards the development, improvement and implementation of broader macroeconomic policies that will enable South Africa to reduce poverty and inequality, stimulate inclusive economic growth and contribute to the creation of sustainable job opportunities.

FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship (full scholarship)

This is the second year that this scholarship has been awarded.

Shaeera Kalla

Shaeera completed a BCom in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Wits, and then completed her honours in Political Science. During her time at Wits she was chairperson of the student representative council in 2015 and played a leading role in #feesmustfall.

She is passionate about social justice and calls herself an activist. She believes in the power of the youth and technology to shake the core of an unjust system. During the Masters in African Studies at Oxford University she will focus on African development in the digital age. She hopes to use the networks built and knowledge gained to challenge the status quo in Africa.

"We are happy to welcome Shaeera Kalla, this year's FirstRand Oxford African Studies Scholar. Shaeera is a talented, inspired and energetic young woman who symbolises the vision of this scholarship which

supports young South Africans who have the potentials to make a difference in the future of the country and the world. Shaera has already exhibited her potentials to make a difference and we are confident that her training in Oxford will exponentially increase her capacity to help in creating a better world for all.” Wale Adebani, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations and Director, African Studies Centre, Oxford.”

Three FirstRand FNB Fund Scholarships for international postgraduate study in education worth R825 000 each

Emma Whitelaw

Emma completed her Bachelor of Social Sciences in Economics and isiXhosa Communications, and went on to pursue her MA in African Languages and Literatures at UCT. During her studies, she passed all her subjects with distinction, except one during her first year. She has a keen interest in the role of language in early childhood development and subsequent academic and economic success.

Her broader interests extend to ‘the economics of language’ which advocates for the use of economic concepts and tools in the study of language. She will be reading towards an MSc in Economics and Public Policy at the University of York

Heidi Barends

Heidi completed her Bachelor of Engineering degree in Industrial Engineering, with distinction, at the University of Pretoria and was awarded the SAIE student award for top student. She was a performance improvement consultant in banking and then went on to debt capital markets in investment banking where she was exposed to the world of finance and economics. In her free time she is working with a diverse group of passionate people on launching the Mila Initiative, a website that will deliver SA-centric videos to supplement the SA Life Orientation curriculum for grade 8 to 12 learners.

She will pursue an MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development at Cambridge University.

Tarryn de Kock

Tarryn earned a BSocSc in Politics and International Studies at Rhodes University, followed by an honours degree. She has also completed her Med at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology with distinction. Tarryn has worked extensively on the Teachers and Social Cohesion project, conducting fieldwork, analysing data and contributing to the writing and editing of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 editions of the research report. She has also contributed to an analysis on a Ministerial Task Team on textbooks and worked as a research officer for the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) 2017 Policy Dialogues.

She is particularly interested in corporate sector involvement in public education and this will be the focus of future study. She will now read for a PhD in Education at University of Sussex.

FirstRand RMB Fund *ad hoc* scholarship.

The RMB Fund (a part of the First Rand Foundation) is not stepping into the bursary provision space.

But, should any candidate in one of the RMB Fund funding focus areas, the creative or environmental economy, make it into the top 40 long list in the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship programme, of their own accord and according to the FirstRand scholarship screening process, and should that candidate not be successful in obtaining FirstRand scholarship support, the RMB Fund might consider awarding an appropriate grant towards the candidate's studies.

Alison Green

Alison is an educator, theatre practitioner and facilitator. Her teaching experience includes: the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy, Rodean and the National School of the Arts and Creative Voices – an integrated arts Initiative associated with the Royal London Opera House. In 2013 Alison attended the UNESCO World Arts Alliance Conference in Germany as the South African Arts Educator Representative. Currently, she is the project manager for the ASSITEJ SA Kickstarter Creative Arts Empowerment programme, which is the first-ever case study for the impact of arts in South Africa. The project won the Business Arts South Africa Award for Development with Rand Merchant Bank in 2017. Alison sits on the Naledi panel for the 'Best Production For Children and Young Audiences,' a new category focusing on the outstanding work being created for youth. Alison is interested in play and the transformative power of the Arts to shift and develop communities. She has recently been accepted at Cambridge University to complete an MPhil in Creativity and Arts Education.

Applications for the 2019 FirstRand scholarship for international postgraduate study will open 16 December 2018 and close on Thursday 21 February 2019.

Details and the application form will be available on the FirstRand website, www.firstrand.co.za from December 2018.

Process

The following factors are taken into account in the awarding of the scholarship:

- academic excellence;
- leadership abilities;
- community involvement;
- potential to be a destiny changer;
- preference is given to applicants under the age of 35; and
- first-time overseas study.

182 qualifying applications were received in 2018. Applications were received from graduates from all of the major South African academic universities.

A preliminary evaluation process was followed with at least three people evaluating each application. The preliminary judging panel of 23 members consisted of representatives from FirstRand, RMB, FNB, Tshikululu Social Investments and prior scholarship recipients. A list of 42 applicants (long list) was selected and interviewed either in person or telephonically by Beth van Heerden, Adrian Arnott and Professor Hlonipha Mokoena from Wits University. A short list of 10 candidates was selected for the final interviews for the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar, FirstRand Foundation and FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarships

The 2018 final adjudication panel was:

- Laurie Dippenaar;
- Estelle Dippenaar;
- Alan Pullinger;
- Sizwe Nxasana;
- Mamokgethi Phakeng;
- Clare Digby; and
- Francois Hugo.

“The panels were again hugely impressed by the quality of all the applicants and, in particular, the final selection who were invited to be interviewed. Any of them could have been a worthy recipient of the award. Members of the panel were unanimous in their view that meeting and interviewing the finalists was an inspirational experience. The panel regard themselves as fortunate to be exposed to such amazing talent,” said Laurie Dippenaar

“Serving on this panel has been one of the most rewarding roles I've had the privilege of playing. The candidates have also been amongst the most extraordinarily capable and deserving bunch one could possibly hope to interview. The whole scholarship initiative ranks right up there with the more meaningful impacts FirstRand has had on society.” Sizwe Nxasana, chairman of the FirstRand Foundation

A short list of three candidates was selected for the final interviews for the FirstRand FNB Fund scholarship for international postgraduate study in education.

The 2018 final adjudication panel was:

- Jacques Celliers;
- Mamokgethi Phakeng;
- Howard Arrand;
- Maryke Bailey;
- Elizabeth Maepa;
- Beth van Heerden;
- Kim Dancey;
- Charmain Nondo; and
- Khaya Tyatya.

This is the first year that the education panel was involved in evaluating the three final selected candidates. They were so blown away by the quality of the applicants that they awarded three (instead on one) scholarships.

“I would once again like to thank all South African universities for promoting this scholarship among their outstanding postgraduate students. The final adjudication panel was again hugely impressed by the quality of all the applicants and, in particular, the final group who were invited for interviews,” said Beth van Heerden, FirstRand CSI Special projects.